

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing high density green compacts comprising the following steps:

(a) ~~providing~~ subjecting a composition of an iron or iron-based powder, wherein less than about 5% of the ~~iron-based~~ powder particles have a size below 45 μm , and a lubricant added to the powder, to uniaxial compaction in a die at a compaction pressure of at least about 800 MPa; and

~~(b) uniaxially compacting the powder in a die at a compaction pressure of at least about 800 MPa; and~~

~~(c)~~(b) ejecting the green body from the die.

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, further comprising mixing said powder with graphite and other additives.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, wherein the compaction is performed in a single step.

23. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 20, wherein at least about 50% of the ~~iron-based~~ powder consists of particles having a particle size above about 106 μm .

24. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 20, wherein at least about 60% of the ~~iron-based~~ powder consists of particles having a particle size above about 106 μm .

25. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 20, wherein at least about 70% of the ~~iron-based~~ powder consists of particles having a particle size above about 106 μm .

26. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 20, wherein at least 50% of the ~~iron-based~~ powder consists of particles having a particle size above about 212 μm .

27. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 26, wherein at least 60% of the ~~iron-based~~ powder consists of particles having a particle size above about 212 μm .

28. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 26, wherein at least 70% of the ~~iron-based~~ powder consists of particles having a particle size above about 212 μm .

29. (Currently Amended) The process ~~according to~~ of claim 26, wherein the maximum particle size is about 2 mm.

30. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 22, wherein the graphite is present in an amount of about 0.1 to 1.0%.

31. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 20, wherein the iron-based powder is combined with a the lubricant in an amount between about 0.05 and about 0.6% by weight before compaction.

32-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~20~~ 21, wherein the additives are selected from the group consisting of alloying elements, machinability enhancing agents, hard phase materials and flow agents.

35. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~claims~~ claim 20, wherein the compaction is performed at a pressure of at least 900 MPa.

36. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~claims~~ claim 35, wherein the compaction is performed at a pressure of at least 1000 MPa.

37. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~claims~~ claim 35, wherein the compaction is performed at a pressure of at least 1100 MPa.

38. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, wherein the compaction is performed at ambient temperature.

39. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, wherein the compaction is performed at elevated temperature.

40. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 20, further comprising sintering in a single step at a temperature above 1100°C.

41-47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 34, wherein the alloying element is selected from the group consisting of Mn, Cu, Ni, Cr, Mo, V, Co, W, Nb, Ti, Al, P, S and B.

49. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein the compaction is performed without using external lubrication.

50. (New) The process of claim 49, wherein the powder is a water-atomized, completely alloyed steel powder.

51. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein the powder is a water-atomized, completely alloyed steel powder.